



Climate change and health in sub-Saharan Africa: A case-based perspective

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Abstract:

Over the coming decades, sub-Saharan Africa will face profound stresses and challenges from global climate change. Many of these will manifest as adverse health outcomes. This article uses a series of five hypothetical cases to review the climate impacts on the health and well-being of individuals and populations in sub-Saharan Africa. This approach fosters insights into the human dimensions of the risks to health, their interaction with local human ecology, and awareness of the diverse health ramifications of external environmental changes. Each case illustrates the health impact resulting from a specific environmental or social consequence of climate change, including impacts on agriculture and food security, droughts, floods, malaria, and population displacement. Whereas the article focuses on discrete manifestations of climate change, individuals will, in practice, face multiple stresses from climate change (i.e., floods and malaria) concomitant with other non-climate stressors (i.e., HIV/AIDS, globalization, etc.). These multiple sources of vulnerability must be considered when designing climate change and socioeconomic development interventions.

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Resource Description

Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal, Rural

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Africa

African Region/Country: African Region

Other African Region: sub-Saharan Africa

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Malnutrition/Undernutrition

Infectious Disease: Vectorborne Disease

Vectorborne Disease: Mosquito-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Malaria

Intervention:

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status, Workers

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content